



## OPEN DOORS OF JUSTICE

### JURY SERVICE: A RITE OF PASSAGE

**NOVEMBER 13, 2002**

**James A. McClure U.S. Courthouse, Boise  
Moscow, Idaho  
United States Courthouse, Pocatello**

#### **Objectives**

- C To present jury service as a right, privilege, honor, and citizen's commitment and responsibility - the only opportunity that citizens have to participate directly in government.
- C To increase the literacy about the judicial system of young adults - soon to be potential jurors - so that their level of ease and familiarity enhances the likelihood of responding positively to jury summons.
- C To represent a realistic and compelling example of a criminal court case.

#### **Program Components**

***In-Class Lesson Plan:*** The lesson that is required prior to the courthouse event is found at the federal courts web site on the page for teachers at [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov) Educational Outreach; Courts to Classes; Lesson Plans for Law-Related High School Teachers; Function and Qualifications for Jury Service. You may download from the site the publication "Understanding the Federal Courts" for use in presenting the issues involved with our constitutional right to a jury by our peers.

The in-class lesson explains the difference between grand juries and petit juries. Students will serve exclusively as petite jurors during the courthouse event and should focus their attention on the importance of that role.

In addition, teachers may wish to have students complete the juror questionnaire that is provided to all potential jurors in order to ascertain their ability and capability to serve as jurors.

***Courthouse Visit:*** As students arrive, they will be assigned a number similar to how real juries are formed. Typically, juries will go through a voir dire process which would eliminate some jurors from serving; we will not be doing the extensive jury questioning on that day. All students will serve as jurors and will have the opportunity to deliberate as jurors during the course of the event. Students will be placed on juries with students from other schools, and may not know their fellow jurors, similar to a real life jury experience.

The program will be happening nationwide on November 13. Likewise, in Idaho, we will be conducting three programs at the same time—Boise, Moscow, Pocatello. At the conclusion of the activities, we will video-conference between the three programs to share concepts, ideas, lessons learned and impressions from the participating students.

***Contact:*** Suzi Butler, Training Specialist  
U.S. Courts, District of Idaho  
550 W Fort Street, MSC 039  
Boise, ID 83724  
(208) 334-9208  
[suzi\\_butler@idd.uscourts.gov](mailto:suzi_butler@idd.uscourts.gov)